

Laying on OFC lines at Tehri-Uttarkashi

† 1744. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1250 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2000 and state:

(a) what is the latest position in respect of laying of OFC lines at the Rishikesh-Narendranagar, Tehri and Mussoorie-Naiyamwem-Naugaon-Uttarkashi and Devprayag-Hindolekhal-Ghansali sections; and

(b) by when the work of laying of OFC lines at the above three sections would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) (i) Rishikesh- Narendranagar-New Tehri optical fibre cable Route of 72 Km length was commissioned on 31.3.2000.

(ii) Mussoorie-Naugaon-Barkot Uttarkashi optical fibre Route of 184.2 Km is under execution and 58.9 Km of HDPE Pipe has been laid so far.

(iii) Tender for trenching and Pipe laying for Devprayag-Hindolekhal-Ghansali optical fibre route has been invited. Work is expected to start by 01.09.2000.

(b) Both the above schemes at No. 2 and No. 3 are likely to be completed by 31.3.2001, subject to timely availability of resources.

Incentives for promoting Internet

1745. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone line network is maximum in use at present for access to internet;

(b) whether in Government's opinion, this system is likely to continue and expand;

(c) whether Government propose any incentives to promote use of internet like quick telephone connection or cheaper call charges etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Telephone lines on which Internet connections work are more in use for Internet traffic *vis-a-vis* the speech traffic.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is expected that as Internet connections increase, the traffic on the corresponding phone lines will increase.

(c) and (d) Incentives presently being extended for promoting use of Internet are:

- (i) Government is providing access to the nearest Internet Node on local call basis in all the District Headquarters of the country except Kargil and Poonch in J&K State.
- (ii) 20% concessions on rental for leased lines used for Internet access is being given by Government at present.
- (iii) Recognised Educational Institute/Government organisations/ Newspapers and News Agencies are presently being given 50% concession on port charges by Government. 100% Export Oriented Units (having annual export turn over above US \$ 1,00,000). Software exporters are also getting 20% concession on annual port charges.

It is proposed to open Internet Dhabas in all Block Headquarters of the country by March 2001.

Development of Communication and Information Technology Network

1746. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to support for providing basic infrastructure for developing communications and Information Technology network in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for improvement and development of Communications network in the State.

All possible support is being extended by way of additional allotment of